

Meeting Summary

Meeting of the Primary Zone Study Committee

August 23, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Walnut Grove Library, Walnut Grove

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Commissioners; Pegos; Piepho; Ruhstaller and Vick

Committee members not present: Commissioners Albright; Cabaldon and Ferguson
Commissioner Piepho served as Chair.

Summary:

Executive Director Linda Fiack noted for the Committee that several letters of comment have been received. She noted that it was not the intent of staff to respond to each letter but the input received would be taken into consideration by the Study consultant team, Douglas Environmental. Doug Brown noted that input provided relative to Rio Vista, Steward Tract and the Cosumnes/Mokelumne Floodplain have been taken into consideration in the revision to the study area maps that will be provided for Committee and Commission adoption.

Mr. Brown noted for the Committee that some of the more difficult areas to define have required research including review of documents from the Delta Vision process. Susan Dell'Osso, River Islands Project, noted that the consultants should continue to use the legislation language and the Delta Protection Act to define study areas.

The consultant team noted that areas that have been brought to their attention, outside of those areas identified in the legislation, could be evaluated and considered in a supplemental study and report to the legislature. Thus, the initial task called for in SBX7-1 could be completed in a timely fashion by the end of December. The Committee expressed concerns that there is not funding allocated for a supplemental study. It was noted that the funding challenge could be noted when the study, and supplemental study recommendation, are presented to the Legislature.

Commissioner Ruhstaller stated that the Committee has an obligation to note all input received in the initial study report. Michael Hakeen, Hakeen, Ellis and Marengo, maintained that there is no assurance that a supplemental study would happen and, therefore, all public comment needs to be included in the initial study. The Committee noted that the Study, when submitted to the Legislature to meet the current mandate to the Commission, should demonstrate the need for a supplemental study to address areas that have been brought to the Commission's attention for consideration.

Taking into consideration the inclusion of input received, particularly relative to the San Joaquin River/South Delta Floodplain, Steward Tract and the City of Rio Vista, the five study area maps were unanimously approved pursuant to motion by Commissioner Pegos and second by Commissioner Vick.

The Committee provided staff with final edits to the letter to the Legislature and directed that the letter be distributed immediately.

Staff reported that a request has been made to the Delta Conservancy and the Delta Stewardship Council for time on their meeting agendas for an update from the Commission on the revised Management Plan, Primary Zone Study process, Economic Sustainability Plan process, and the National Heritage Area process. It is anticipated the presentation to the Council will be on September 23rd or 24th and the presentation to the Conservancy will be on October 6th.

Public Comment:

Susan Dell'Osso, River Islands, maintained that city boundaries established under General Plan designations need to be excluded from the Primary Zone.

Jeff Willett, City of Stockton, stated the Port of Stockton should be moved into the Secondary Zone as it was erroneously placed in the Primary Zone in 1992.

Steve Salvatore, City of Lathrop, requested the River Islands Project be removed from the Study and suggested Steward Tract also not be considered in the Study.

Bill Geyer, Resource Landowners Coalition, stated that broadening study area boundaries has the potential to jeopardize pre-existing land and resource transactions and could devalue land appraisals.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:25 p.m.